

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16, and 17 are presently pending. Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 12, and 15-17 are rejected. Claims 7 and 14 are allowed. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, and 13 are objected to but indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form. Assignee appreciates Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Takabatake. Takabatake is directed to a "Moving picture decoding circuit". Takabatake, Cover Sheet. Examiner has indicated that it "discloses a method of decoding MPEG data comprising a plurality of macroblocks, each macroblock comprising a header and block layer data (see Paragraphs 15-19), the method comprises decoding the header of at least one macroblock using first processing element (e.g. via the header decoder, see item 2 of fig. 15); and decoding the block layer data of said at least one macroblock using a second processing element (using a data processor, as depicted by item 4 of fig. 15). See Paragraphs 60 and 73-75." Office Action, p. 3.

Claim 1, as now amended, recites among other limitations, "decoding the header of at least one macroblock using a processor" and "the variable length decoder being separate from the processor". Claim 8 as now amended, recites among other limitations, "a processor for decoding the header of at least one macroblock" and "the variable length decoder being separate from the processor."

In Takabatake, "Fig. 15 illustrates the internal structure of a variable length decoder shown in Fig. 12". Takabatake, Col. 15, Lines 24-25. Examiner has noted that Takabatake teaches "decoding the header of at least one

Amendment and Response
Serial No. 10/623,839
Art Unit: 2676

macroblock using first processing element (e.g. via the header decoder, see item 2 of fig. 15)". However, since "Fig. 15 illustrates the internal structure of a variable length decoder shown in Fig. 12", Takabatake does not teach "the variable length decoder being separate from the processor". Accordingly, for at least this reason, claims 1 and 8 as now amended are not anticipated by Takabatake. Accordingly, Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections to claims 1 and 8, and to dependent claims 4, 10, 12, 16, and 17.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Assignee respectfully submits that each of the pending claims are in a condition for allowance and Examiner is requested to pass this case to issuance.

To the extent that there is any fee associated with action requested herein, the Commissioner of Patents is expressly authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account 13-0017.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



Mirut Dalal
ATTORNEY FOR ASSIGNEE
Reg. No. 44,052

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 West Madison - Suite 3400
Chicago, IL 60661

Phone (312) 775-8000
FAX (312) 775-8100